## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1- 37 (Canceled)

38. (New) An adjustable clamping assembly for joining a first object and a second object, said first object having a first channel of a first width and said second object having a second channel of a second width, said first channel and said second channel having openings, said first object and said second object being positioned such that said first channel and said second channel and said openings thereof are aligned, said clamping assembly comprising:

a self-aligning coupling device that comprises an elongate connecting portion, which has a threaded portion, that is positioned within at least one of said first channel and said second channel, and a head portion comprising at least a first lug having an end interconnected to, or integral with, said elongate connecting portion and a free end, said head portion further including opposing lateral surfaces that are associated with said free end of said lug wherein the distance between said opposing lateral surfaces defines a width that is less than said first width and said second width;

an engagement assembly that is positioned within a first cutaway region of said first channel and is operably associated with said elongate connecting portion, the engagement assembly having a gear member engaged to said threaded portion of said elongate connecting portion wherein actuation of said gear member transitions said elongate connecting member within at least one of said first channel and said second channel;

wherein said head portion has a first position of use wherein said opposing lateral surfaces are generally aligned with sidewalls of at least one of said first channel and said second channel such that the head portion is prevented from rotating as said elongate connecting portion translates within said first channel and said second channel;

wherein said head portion has a second position of use such that said opposing lateral surfaces are positioned at an angle relative to said side walls of at least one of said first channel and said second channel and such that said at least a first lug is positioned within a second cutaway portion of said second channel; and

wherein actuation of said gear member pulls said head portion, which is oriented in said second position of use, such that said first lug abuts a side wall of said second cutaway portion which pulls said first object and said second object together to interconnect the same.

39. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 further comprising a second lug having an end interconnected to, or integral with, said elongate connecting portion and positioned opposite said at least a first lug.

40. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 wherein said head portion comprises a rectangular cross section with rounded corners.

41. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 wherein one or more edges and corners located at the end of said head portion are rounded or smoothed.

42. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 wherein said self-aligning coupling device comprises at least one nib for engagement with a corresponding recess in said engagement assembly, said nib and said recess being arranged such that when engaged, said self-aligning coupling device is retained in an angular position relative to said engagement assembly corresponding with said first position of use when the engagement assembly is inserted into said first cutaway region.

43. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 wherein said head is selectively interconnected to said self-aligning coupling device.

44. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 wherein said threaded portion of said self-aligning coupling device is formed such that torque is applied thereto due to friction between said threaded portion and a cooperative thread of said engagement assembly.

45. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 44 wherein the thread formed on said elongate connecting portion is manufactured so as to be a snug fit with the cooperatively threaded engagement assembly such that friction is increased therebetween.

46. (New) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 38 wherein said engagement assembly comprises:

a first gear member having a first axis of rotation; and

a second gear member having centrally a second axis of rotation substantially perpendicular to said first axis of rotation and being cooperatively engaged with said first gear member such that rotation of said first gear member about said first axis results in rotation of said second gear member about said second axis,

wherein said second gear member comprises an internally-threaded central rotatable sleeve member that engages said threaded portion of said elongate connecting portion.

47. (New) The adjustable clamp assembly of claim 46 wherein said first and said second gear members comprise beveled portions, and said engagement assembly further comprises a housing formed to retain said first gear member and said second gear member, said housing having at least one external surface that, in use, abuts a corresponding surface of said first cut away portion of said first object.

48. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 38 further comprising a channel abutment portion associated with said head and positioned between said head and said self-aligning coupling device that travels within at least one of said first channel and said second channel.

49. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 48 wherein said channel abutment portion has a first position of use within at least one of said first or said second channel wherein said channel abutment portion is adapted to engage at least one of said side walls of at least one of said first channel and said second channel such that rotation of said at least a first lug about a longitudinal axis of said self-aligning coupling device in a first angular direction is prevented.

50. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 48 wherein said channel abutment portion includes two pairs of flat surfaces, each pair of surfaces meeting at an edge

therebetween and said pairs being substantially opposed to each other relative to a longitudinal axis of said self-aligning coupling device.

51. (New) The self-aligning coupling device of claim 50 wherein said each of said pair of surfaces meet at right angles and are arranged such that in each of said first and second angular positions one of each of said pairs of surfaces contacts at least one side wall of at least one of said first channel and said second channel.

52. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 48 further comprising a second lug having an end interconnected to, or integral with, said elongate connecting portion and positioned opposite said first lug;

wherein said head portion has a substantially rectangular cross section;

wherein said channel abutment portion comprises two pairs of flat surfaces, each pair of surfaces meeting at an edge and said pairs being substantially opposed to each other relative to the longitudinal axis of said self-aligning coupling device; and

wherein said pairs of surfaces are opposed along an axis oriented at 45 degrees to major and minor axes of said rectangular cross section.

53. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 52 wherein said channel abutment portion is tapered, such that a width thereof proximate to the head portion is greater than a width proximate to said self-aligning coupling device.

54. (New) The adjustable clamping assembly of claim 52 wherein said channel abutment portion is formed integrally with said head portion, such that one of each of said pairs of surfaces is continuous with a corresponding surface of said head portion located on a side parallel to said major axis of said substantially rectangular cross section.